

# MIN

2. *Gay* has improperly made it a substantive.  
Here shall the pencil bid its colours flow,  
And make a miniature creation grow. *Gay.*
- MINIKIN.** *adj.* 1. Small; diminutive. Used in slight contempt.  
Sleepest, or wakest thou, jolly shepherd,  
Thy sheep be in the corn;  
And for one blast of thy minikin mouth,  
Thy sheep shall take no harm. *Shakefp. King Lear.*
- MINIM.** *n. f.* [from *minimus*, Lat.]  
1. A small being; a dwarf.  
Not all  
Minims of nature; some of serpent-kind,  
Wond'rous in length, and corpulence, involv'd  
Their snaky folds, and added wings. *Milton's Par. Lost.*
2. This word is applied, in the northern counties, to a small fort of fish, which they pronounce *minnim*. See **MINNOW**.
- MINIMUS.** *n. f.* [Latin.] A being of the least size.  
Get you gone, you dwarf,  
You minimus of hind'ring knot-grass made;  
You bead, you acorn. *Shakespeare.*
- MINION.** *n. f.* [*mignon*, French.] A favourite; a darling; a low dependant; one who pleases rather than benefits. A word of contempt, or of slight and familiar kindness.  
Minion, said she; indeed I was a pretty one in those days;  
I see a number of lads that love you. *Sidney, b. ii.*
- They were made great courtiers, and in the way of *minions*, when advancement, the most mortal offence to envy, stirred up their former friend to overthrow them. *Sidney.*
- One, who had been a special *minion* of Andromanas, hated us for having disposed of him of her heart. *Sidney, b. ii.*
- Go rate thy *minions*;  
Becomes it thee to be thus bold in terms  
Before thy sovereign. *Duncan's horses, Shakespeare's Henry VI.*
- Beauteous and swift, the *minions* of the race,  
Turn'd wild in nature. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*
- His company must do his *minions* grace,  
Whilst I at home starve for a merry look. *Shakespeare.*
- Edward sent one army into Ireland; not for conquest, but to guard the person of his *minion* Piers Gaveston. *Davies.*
- If a man should launch into the history of human nature, we should find the very *minions* of princes linked in conspiracies against their master. *L'Estrange's Fables.*
- The drowsy tyrant by his *minions* led,  
To regal rage devotes some patriot's head. *Swift.*
- MINIOUS.** *adj.* [from *minium*, Latin.] Of the colour of red lead or vermilion.  
Some conceive, that the Red Sea receiveth a red and *minious* tincture from springs that fall into it. *Brown.*
- To **MINISH.** *v. a.* [from *diminish*; *minus*, Latin.] To lessen; to lop; to impair.  
Ye shall not *minish* ought from your bricks of your daily task. *Exad. v. 19.*
- They are *minished* and brought low through oppression. *Psal. cvii. 39.*
- Another law was to bring in the silver of the realm to the mint, in making all clipp'd, *minished*, or impaired coins of silver, not to be current in payments. *Bacon's Henry VII.*
- MINISTER.** *n. f.* [*minister*, Latin; *ministre*, Fr.]  
1. An agent; one who is employed to any end; one who acts not by any inherent authority, but under another.  
You, whom virtue hath made the princeps of felicity, be not the *minister* of ruin. *Sidney, b. ii.*
- Rumble thy belly full; spit fire, spout rain,  
Nor rain, wind, thunder, fire, are my daughters;  
I tax not you, you elements, with unkindness:  
But yet I call you servile *ministers*,  
That have with two pernicious daughters join'd  
Your high-engender'd battles, 'gainst a head  
So old and white as this. *Shakefp. King Lear.*
- Th' infernal *minister* advanc'd,  
Seiz'd the due victim. *Dryden's Theodore and Honoria.*
- Other spirits govern'd by the will,  
Shoot through their tracks, and distant muscles fill;  
This sovereign, by his arbitrary nod,  
Restrains or lends his *ministers* abroad. *Blackmore.*
2. One who is employed in the administration of government.  
Kings must be answerable to God, but the *ministers* to kings, whose eyes, ears, and hands they are, must be answerable to God and man. *Bacon.*
3. One who serves at the altar; one who performs sacerdotal functions.  
Epaphras, a faithful *minister* of Christ. *1 Col. i. 7.*
- The *ministers* are always preaching, and the governors putting forth edicts against dancing and gaming. *Addison.*
- The *ministers* of the gospel are especially required to shine as lights in the world, because the distinction of their station

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- renders their conduct more observable; and the presumption of their knowledge, and the dignity of their office, gives a peculiar force and authority to their example. *Rogers.*
4. A delegate; an official.  
If wrongfully  
Let God revenge; for I may never lift  
An angry arm against his *minister*. *Shakefp. Rich. II.*
5. An agent from a foreign power, without the dignity of an ambassador.  
To **MINISTER.** *v. a.* [*ministre*, Latin.] To give; to supply; to afford.  
All the customs of the Irish would *minister* occasion of a most ample discourse of the original and antiquity of that people. *Spenser on Ireland.*
- Now he that *ministereth* feed to the fowls, both *minister* bread for your food and multiply your feed fowls. *2 Cor. ix.*
- The wounded patient bears  
The artist's hand that *ministers* the cure. *Orway's Orphan.*
- MINISTER.** *v. n.*  
1. To attend; to serve in any office.  
Certain of them had the charge of the *ministering* vessels, to bring them in and out by tale. *1 Chron. ix. 28.*
- They which *minister* about holy things, live of the things of the temple. *1 Cor. ix. 13.*
- At table Eve  
*Minister'd* naked, and their flowing cups  
With pleasant liquors crown'd. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. v.*
2. To give medicines.  
Canst thou not *minister* to a mind diseas'd,  
Pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow,  
Raze out the written troubles of the brain? *Shak. Macb.*
3. To give supplies of things needful; to give assistance; to contribute; to conduce.  
Others *ministered* unto him of their substance. *Luke viii. 3.*
- He who has a soul wholly void of gratitude, should set his soul to learn of his body; for all the parts of that *minister* to one another. *South's Sermons.*
- There is no truth which a man may more evidently make out than the existence of a God; yet he that shall content himself with things as they *minister* to us pleasures and passions, and not make enquiry a little farther into their causes and ends, may live long without any notion of such a being. *Locke.*
- Those good men, who take such pleasure in relieving the miserable for Christ's sake, would not have been less forward to *minister* unto Christ himself. *Atterbury.*
- Fasting is not absolutely good, but relatively, and as it *ministers* to other virtues. *Smalbridge's Sermons.*
4. To attend on the service of God.  
Whether prophesy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; or ministry, let us wait on our *ministering*. *Rom. xii. 7.*
- MINISTERIAL.** *adj.* [from *minister*.]  
1. Attendant; acting at command.  
Understanding is required in a man; courage and vivacity in the lion; service, and *ministerial* officiousness, in the ox. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
- From essences unseen, celestial names,  
Enlight'ning spirits, and *ministerial* flames,  
Lift we our reason to that sovereign cause,  
Who blest'd the whole with life. *Prior.*
2. Acting under superior authority.  
For the *ministerial* officers in court there must be an eye unto them. *Bacon's Advice to Villiers.*
- Abstinence, the apostle determines, is of no other real value in religion, than as a *ministerial* cause of moral effects; as it recalls us from the world, and gives a serious turn to our thoughts. *Rogers's Sermons.*
3. Sacerdotal; belonging to the ecclesiastics or their office.  
These speeches of Jerom and Chrysostom plainly allude unto such *ministerial* garments as were then in use. *Hooker.*
4. Pertaining to ministers of state, or persons in subordinate authority.  
**MINISTRY.** *n. f.* [*ministerium*, Lat.] Office; service. This word is now contracted to *ministry*, but used by *Milton* as four syllables.  
They that will have their chamber filled with a good scent, make some odoriferous water be blown about it by their servants mouths that are dextrous in that *ministry*. *Digby.*
- This temple to frequent  
With *ministries* due, and solemn rites. *Milton, b. xii.*
- MINISTRAL.** *adj.* [from *minister*.] Pertaining to a minister.  
**MINISTRANTS.** *adj.* [from *minister*.] Attendant; acting at command.  
Him thrones, and pow'rs,  
Princedom, and dominations *ministrant*,  
Accompany'd to heav'n-gate. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. x.*
- Ministrant* to their queen with busy care,  
Four faithful handmaids the soft rites prepare. *Pope.*
- MINISTRATION.**

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- MINISTRATION.** *n. f.* [from *ministre*, Latin.]  
1. Agency; intervention; office of an agent delegated or commissioned by another.  
God made him the instrument of his providence to me, as he hath made his own land to him, with this difference, that God, by his *ministration* to me, intends to do him a favour. *Taylor's living holy.*
- Though sometimes effected by the immediate fiat of the divine will, yet I think they are most ordinarily done by the *ministration* of angels. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*
2. Service; office; ecclesiastical function.  
If the present *ministration* be more glorious than the former, the minister is more holy. *Atterbury's Sermons.*
- MINIUM.** *n. f.* [Latin.]  
Melt lead in a broad earthen vessel unglazed, and stir it continually till it be calcined into a grey powder; this is called the calx of lead; continue the fire, stirring it in the same manner, and it becomes yellow; in this state it is used in painting, and is called mafficot or mafficot; after this put it into a reverberatory furnace, and it will calcine further, and become of a fine red, which is the common *minium* or red lead: among the ancients *minium* was the name for cinnabar: the modern *minium* is used externally, and is excellent in cleansing and healing old ulcers. *Hill's Mat. Med.*
- MINISTRY.** *n. f.* [contracted from *ministry*; *ministerium*, Lat.]  
1. Office; service.  
So far is an indistinction of all persons, and, by consequence, an anarchy of all things, so far from being agreeable to the will of God, declared in his great household, the world, and especially in all the *ministries* of his proper household the church, that there was never yet any time, I believe, since it was a number, when some of its members were not more sacred than others. *Spratt's Sermons.*
2. Office of one set apart to preach; ecclesiastical function.  
Their *ministry* perform'd, and race well run,  
Their doctrine and their story written left,  
They die. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. xii.*
- Saint Paul was miraculously called to the *ministry* of the gospel, and had the whole doctrine of the gospel from God by immediate revelation; and was appointed the apostle of the Gentiles for propagating it in the heathen world. *Locke.*
3. Agency; interposition.  
The natural world he made after a miraculous manner; but directs the affairs of it ever since by standing rules, and the ordinary *ministry* of second causes.  
The poets introduced the *ministry* of the gods, and taught the separate existence of human souls. *Bentley's Sermons.*
4. Business.  
He safe from loud alarms,  
Abhor'd the wicked *ministry* of arms. *Dryden's Æn.*
5. Persons employed in the public affairs of a state.  
I converse in full freedom with many considerable men of both parties; and if not in equal number, it is purely accidental, as happening to have made acquaintance at court more under one *ministry* than another. *Swift.*
- MINNICK.** *n. f.* Of this word I know not the precise meaning. It is not unlikely that *minnick* and *minux* are originally the same word.  
An ass's hole I fixed on his head;  
Anon his *Thistle* must be answered,  
And forth my *minnick* comes. *Shakespeare.*
- MINNOW.** *n. f.* [*minneus*, French.] A very small fish; a pink: a corruption of *minimus*, which see.  
Hear you this triton of the *minnow*? *Shakespeare.*
- The *minnow*, when he is in perfect season, and not sick, which is only presently after spawning, hath a kind of dappled or waved colour, like a panther, on his sides, inclining to a greenish and sky-colour, his belly being milk-white, and his back almost black or blackish: he is a sharp biter at a small worm in wet weather, and in the Spring they make excellent *minnow* tantes; for being washed well in salt, and their heads and tails cut off, and their guts taken out, being fried with yolks of eggs, primroses and tansy. *Walton's Angler.*
- The nimble turning of the *minnow* is the perfection of *minnow* fishing. *Walton's Angler.*
- MINOR.** *adj.* [Latin.]  
1. Petty; inconsiderable.  
If there are petty errors and *minor* lapses, not considerably injurious unto faith, yet is it not late to condemn inferior fallacies. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. v.*
2. Less; smaller.  
They altered this custom from cases of high concernment to the most trivial debates, the *minor* part ordinarily entering their protest. *Clarendon.*
- The difference of a third part in so large and collective an account is not strange, if we consider how differently they are set forth in *minor* and less mistakeable numbers. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
- MINOR.** *n. f.*  
1. One under age; one whose youth cannot yet allow him to manage his own affairs.

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- King Richard the Second, the first ten years of his reign; was a *minor*. *Dwises on Ireland.*
- He and his muse might be *minors*, but the liberties are full grown. *Collier's View of the Stage.*
- Long as the year's dull circle seems to run,  
When the brisk *minor* pants for twenty-one. *Pope.*
- The noblest blood of England having been shed in the grand rebellion, many great families became extinct, or supported only by *minors*. *Swift.*
- A *minor* or infant cannot be said to be contumacious, because he cannot appear as a defendant in court, but by his guardian. *Ayliffe's Parergon.*
2. The second or particular proposition in the syllogism.  
The second or *minor* proposition was, that this kingdom hath cause of just fear of overthrow from Spain. *Bacon.*
- He supposed that a philosopher's brain was like a forest, where ideas are ranged like animals of several kinds; that the major is the male, the *minor* the female, which copulate by the middle term, and engender the conclusion. *Aristotot.*
- To **MINORATE.** *v. a.* [from *minor*, Lat.] To lessen; to diminish. A word not yet admitted into the language.  
This it doth not only by the advantageous assistance of a tube, but by shewing in what degrees distance *minimates* the object. *Glanville's Scept.*
- MINORATION.** *n. f.* [from *minorate*.] The act of lessening; diminution; decrease. A word not admitted.  
Bodies emit virtue without abatement of weight, as is most evident in the loadstone, whose efficiencies are communicable without a *minoration* of gravity. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
- We hope the mercies of God will consider our degenerated integrity unto some *minoration* of our offences. *Brown.*
- MINORITY.** *n. f.* [*minorité*, Fr. from *minor*, Latin.]  
1. The state of being under age.  
I mov'd the king, my master, to speak in the behalf of my daughter, in the *minority* of them both. *Shakespeare.*
- He is young, and his *minority*  
Is put into the trust of Richard Gloster. *Shakespeare.*
- These changes in religion should be staid, until the king were of years to govern by himself: this the people apprehending worse than it was, a question was raised, whether, during the king's *minority*, such alterations might be made or no. *Howard's Edw. VI.*
- Henry the Eighth, doubting he might die in the *minority* of his son, procured an act to pass, that no statute made during the *minority* of the king should bind him or his successors, except it were confirmed by the king at his full age. But the first act that passed in king Edward the Sixth's time, was a repeal of that former act; at which time nevertheless the king was *minor*. *Bacon's Henry VII.*
- If there be evidence, that it is not many ages since nature was in her *minority*, this may be taken for a good proof that she is not eternal. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*
- Their counsels are warlike and ambitious, though something tempered by the *minority* of their king. *Temple.*
2. The state of being less.  
From this narrow time of gestation may ensue a *minority*, or smallness in the exclusion. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. iii.*
3. The smaller number: as, the *minority* held for that question in opposition to the majority.
- MINOTAUR.** *n. f.* [*minotaure*, French; *minos* and *taurus*.] A monster invented by the poets, half man and half bull, kept in Dædalus's labyrinth.  
Thou may'st not wander in that labyrinth,  
There *minotaurs*, and ugly trensons lurk. *Shakespeare.*
- MINSTER.** *n. f.* [*munstere*, Saxon.] A monastery; an ecclesiastical fraternity; a cathedral church. The word is yet retained at York and Lichfield.  
**MINSTREL.** *n. f.* [*menestrel*, Spanish; *menestrallus*, low Latin.] A musician; one who plays upon instruments.  
Hark how the *minstrel's* 'gin to shrill aloud  
Their merry musick that rebounds from far,  
The pipe, the tabor, and the trembling croud,  
That well agree withouten breach or jar. *Spenser's Epithal.*
- I will give you the *minstrel*.  
—Then I will give you the serving creature. *Shakespeare.*
- I to the vulgar am become a jest;  
Esteemed as a *minstrel* at a feast. *Sandys's Paraphrase.*
- These fellows  
Were once the *minstrels* of a country shew;  
Follow'd the prizes through each paltry town,  
By trumpet-cheeks and bloated faces known.  
Often our feet and poets have confest'd,  
That musick's force can tame the furious beast;  
His rage; the wolf, or foaming boar restrain  
Attentive to the song; the lynx forget  
His wrath to man, and lick the *minstrel's* feet. *Prior.*
- MINSTRELSEY.** *n. f.* [from *minstrel*.]  
1. Musick; instrumental harmony.  
Apollo's self will envy at his play,  
And all the world applaud his *minstrelsey*. *Dwises.*